purpose, permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court be established in the capitals of these States. Accordingly a permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court was established at Imphal in Manipur on 21.1.92. Thereafter no proposal has been received from the Government of Manipur for setting up a separate High Court for the State.

Maternal Mortality During Pregnancy

*537.SHRI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to-state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the high incidence of maternal mortality in the country is attributed to ignorance, illiteracy and hestitation to contact health services during pregnancy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government have taken or propose to take to prevent high incidence of maternal mortality in the country particularly amongst the poor and vlunerable section of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) The National Family Health Survey (1992-93) estimated the maternal mortality rate at the national level at 437 per 1,00,000 live births. Ignorance, illiteracy and poor health seeking behaviour contribute to the high maternal mortality rate. The interventions for safe Motherhood under the ongoing Child Survival and Safe Motherhood programme will be further strengthened under the Reproductive and Child Health- Project proposed to be launched in 1997.

Journalists Accompanying Prime Minister on Domestic Visits

*538. DR. GOPALRAO VITHAL RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) guidelines adopted by Government to select journalists to accompany Prime Minister on his domestic visits;

(b) journalists who accompanied Prime Minister during his visits to North-Eastern States during the last three years, and respective newspapers represented;

(c) journalists from said States accredited to Central Government with respective newspapers represented and dates of accreditation; and

(d) top ten dailies from said States, and respective circulation during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) The criteria for selection of journalists to accompany Prime Minister on his domestic visits is to ensure balanced and fair coverage of Prime Minister's visits. To the extent possible one representation is given to regional language newspapers.

(b) Information is given in the annexed Statement-I *(See* below)

(c) Information is given in the annexed Statement-ll *(See* below)

(d) Information is given in the annexed statement-Ill *(See* below)